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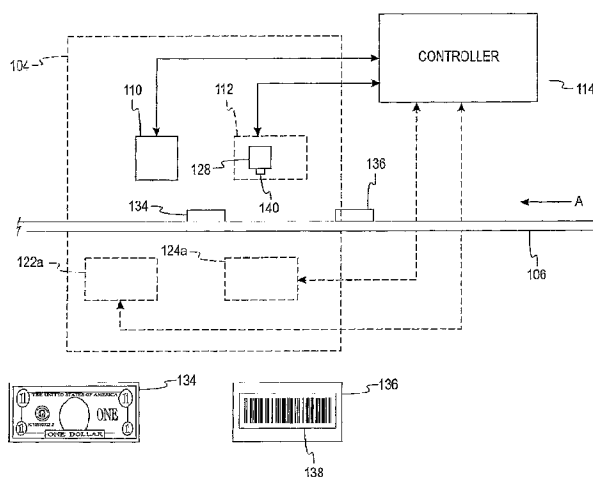
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING BATCHES OF DOCUMENTS



(57) Abstract: A method of processing documents by receiving at least a batch of documents and a separator card in an input receptacle of a document processing device. The separator card includes a conductive material disposed on one side, and a barcode indicative of the source of the batch of documents. The documents and separator card are transported via a transport mechanism past an evaluation unit and a field-effect sensor, respectively. The document processing device evaluates each document, determines whether the document meets or fails predetermined criteria, and detects the presence of the conductive material when a separator card is transported past the sensor. The source identification information from each separator card is entered into a memory of the document processing device after all the documents from the corresponding batch of documents have met the predetermined criteria. Feeder operation is paused between each batch long enough to verify that the previous batch closed successfully. Pausing feeder operation to address document anomalies before subsequent batches are processed promotes batch integrity and reduces operator confusion.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Y	paragraph '0019! paragraph '0021! - paragraph '0022! paragraph '0026! - paragraph '0027! paragraph '0035! paragraph '0038!; figures 1-3 -----	
Y	US 2003/023342 A1 (CHRISTL RUDOLF ET AL) 30 January 2003 (2003-01-30) paragraph '0003! - paragraph '0004! paragraph '0017! - paragraph '0024! ----- -/--	16-19



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